



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 30, 2011

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. The unusual weather not only continued, but seemed to kick into high gear this past week. Pennsylvania along with much of the east coast was hit with some uncharacteristic snow in the last week of October. The snow fall totals around the keystone state varied depending on elevation and location ranging from 4 to 12 inches; with the double digit totals occurring mostly in the higher elevations. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting of corn, soybeans, and apples. Fall plowing is 44% complete, behind the 63% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 70%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 30, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	44	56

Crop Progress: The corn crop is 96% mature, behind the 97% at this time last year, and slightly behind the 5-year average of 96%. The year's corn crop is 39% harvested, well behind the 69% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 58%. Barley planting is 86% complete, behind the 98% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 95%. Barley is 58% emerged, behind the 88% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 81%. Winter wheat planting is 68% complete, compared to the 84% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 83%. Winter wheat is 46% emerged, compared to the 66% at this time last year and the average of 63%. The soybean harvest is 33% complete, compared to the 70% last year and the average of 56%. The potato harvest is 92% complete, compared to 99% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 98%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 85% complete, behind the previous year's 97% and the 5-year average of 94%. Apple harvesting is 95% complete, slightly behind the 96% last year, but about the same as the average of 95%.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 46% good, and 32% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 7% poor, 24% fair, 48% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, 36% good and 9% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 23, 2011: Warmer-than-normal weather across much of the West contrasted with mostly cooler-than normal conditions in the East, allowing fieldwork to advance rapidly in most regions during the week. While much of the nation was relatively dry during the week, rainfall associated with a late-week storm system saturated some fields in the eastern Corn Belt. Showers in portions of the Northwest slowed small grain seeding.

Corn: By week's end, 97 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the mature stage. This was 3 percentage points behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Ohio, following delayed planting and a slower-than-normal growing season. Nationally, producers had harvested 65 percent of the corn crop, 16 percentage points behind last year but 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Favorable weather conditions throughout most of the major growing regions provided ample time for fieldwork during the week. Overall, 54 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week.

Soybeans: By October 23, soybean producers had harvested 80 percent of this year's crop, 11 percentage points behind last year but 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall progress was 10 percentage points or more ahead of normal in four of the five largest soybean producing states, but harvest was 34 percentage points—or nearly 2 weeks—behind normal in Ohio.

Winter Wheat: Nationally, 82 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was seeded by week's end, 5 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Despite recent rainfall that prompted double-digit seeding in Texas, overall progress remained 15 percentage points behind normal. Nationwide, 56 percent of the winter wheat crop was emerged by October 23, seven points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 47 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 30, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 30, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	61	29	46	-4	1.00	6	35.16	8.86	105	3,114	486	5,048
Franklin_AG	62	30	43	-5	1.00	7	37.06	9.23	126	2,986	586	4,905
Meadville-Port	60	27	44	-3	1.13	5	34.28	6.07	118	3,028	832	4,947
Mercer	62	28	43	-4	1.03	6	35.36	8.92	136	2,945	569	4,888
Springboro	60	27	43	-7	0.94	5	39.26	13.93	121	2,642	70	4,528
Warren	60	29	41	-6	1.29	5	33.48	5.25	111	2,757	442	4,646
North Central												
Bradford Region	56	19	39	-5	0.99	6	35.35	7.38	127	2,320	665	4,123
Oswayo	58	25	40	-5	0.93	6	35.00	8.30	116	2,273	439	4,093
Kane	57	24	38	-5	1.12	6	40.44	11.78	111	2,201	587	4,003
Laporte	56	25	40	-7	1.28	6	63.32	37.38	121	2,410	42	4,249
Lock Haven	64	29	44	-4	1.09	4	38.82	13.40	100	3,186	665	5,149
Port Allegany	59	26	41	-4	0.95	6	35.22	8.52	120	2,462	628	4,319
Renovo	63	31	44	-4	1.11	5	38.77	13.35	117	3,121	600	5,079
Ridgway	61	25	40	-5	1.10	6	33.95	6.38	121	2,478	593	4,350
Stevenson Dam	62	29	43	-2	1.15	4	38.52	10.95	99	2,972	1,087	4,903
Towanda	64	29	44	-3	1.01	5	48.07	26.50	100	2,810	421	4,746
Wellsboro	59	24	40	-5	0.87	5	38.55	16.83	113	2,374	597	4,195
Williamsport	65	30	47	-2	1.08	4	51.18	25.83	103	3,438	657	5,440
Northeast												
Hawley	59	23	42	-4	1.48	4	52.12	27.67	100	2,534	500	4,453
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	61	27	46	-3	1.37	4	43.60	19.88	102	3,150	514	5,130
Susquehanna	60	27	42	-2	1.30	4	48.56	22.20	105	2,662	741	4,587
West Central												
Butler	64	32	44	-4	1.02	6	33.11	7.00	116	3,012	521	4,975
New Castle	69	31	46	-2	0.80	5	35.48	11.45	110	3,361	866	5,336
Slippery Rock	66	30	45	-2	0.85	6	36.77	11.09	117	3,080	846	5,041
Central												
Altoona/Blair	64	22	47	-2	0.96	4	35.23	12.14	97	3,352	699	5,336
DuBois	59	26	43	-3	1.06	6	36.29	10.02	116	2,821	548	4,728
Lewistown	68	29	47	-3	1.49	5	44.56	19.84	102	3,453	538	5,464
Middletown	66	33	49	-3	1.68	5	55.10	30.51	94	3,822	515	5,875
Prince Gallitzi	60	26	41	-5	1.36	4	36.64	7.18	103	2,789	664	4,681
Selinsgrove	67	28	45	-3	1.33	5	51.82	26.07	106	3,198	489	5,178
State College	63	27	45	-3	1.17	5	38.06	14.75	101	3,194	593	5,142
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	64	28	48	-2	1.77	4	50.17	23.52	94	3,614	599	5,647
Lehighton	60	31	45	-5	1.46	4	44.47	17.75	103	3,060	156	5,064
Matamoras	61	27	43	-5	1.47	3	55.64	28.73	103	2,745	141	4,709
Mt_Pocono	58	27	43	0	1.33	5	56.51	27.50	111	2,676	931	4,584
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	63	29	47	-2	1.31	6	28.26	3.93	111	3,553	876	5,561
Indiana_PA	61	28	45	-4	1.64	6	38.53	10.16	131	3,114	522	5,074
Myersdale	60	25	42	-5	1.23	5	33.18	5.54	110	2,394	-93	4,269
Chalk_Hill	61	27	43	-7	2.20	5	46.69	19.99	118	2,473	-387	4,360
Pittsburgh Intl	63	29	46	-3	1.12	6	25.38	2.72	102	3,507	704	5,510
Connellsville	64	31	47	-3	1.83	5	37.75	11.05	130	3,379	519	5,382
Waynesburg	65	29	45	-3	1.65	5	46.04	21.40	107	3,132	549	5,122
South Central												
Biglerville	65	27	49	-2	1.58	5	42.04	18.51	85	3,633	400	5,671
Everett	66	24	45	-4	1.19	5	37.45	14.75	97	3,013	366	5,000
Hanover	66	24	47	-4	1.52	5	38.96	15.43	98	3,581	348	5,601
Harrisburg_AP	67	31	49	-2	1.55	5	54.00	29.41	87	3,840	523	5,893
South Mountain	63	24	45	-3	1.83	5	38.87	15.78	98	2,946	303	4,902
York	66	25	47	-4	1.73	5	43.54	18.66	98	3,603	371	5,645
Southeast												
Green Lane	64	31	47	-2	1.78	4	43.50	17.68	94	3,609	734	5,652
Hamburg	63	32	46	-1	1.75	5	46.75	16.70	102	3,504	905	5,523
West_Chester	65	30	47	-4	1.58	4	44.95	16.78	82	3,625	407	5,663
Lancaster	64	30	48	-2	1.13	5	40.96	14.82	99	3,717	668	5,756
Neshaminy Falls	65	28	46	-4	2.15	2	49.96	20.25	80	3,781	775	5,820
New Holland	66	29	49	-2	1.71	5	42.02	15.88	94	3,688	639	5,721
Philadelphia	66	34	52	-2	1.64	4	45.74	20.60	77	4,396	853	6,480
Philadelphia NE	65	33	50	-3	2.00	4	46.37	21.23	85	4,084	541	6,159
Reading	66	32	49	0	1.32	4	39.73	12.01	97	3,931	947	5,995
Sellersville	66	30	46	-4	1.49	4	44.30	18.48	89	3,345	470	5,359
Doylestown_AG	66	32	48	-2	1.40	5	49.75	20.04	96	3,780	774	5,839

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Early Saturday morning significant rainfall was received, then changed to snow the rest of the day. Adams County had between 8-10 inches of heavy snowfall and cold windy temperatures. Lots of trees and power lines were down and caused major power outages throughout the county. Producers were busy harvesting corn and soybeans 3 days this week until some rain came. Some producers got some wheat seeded and made haylage since drying conditions aren't too good for making dry hay this time of the year. Producers are reminded about reporting prevented planting for barley and wheat to FSA offices and also to crop insurance agents if applicable.

Apple harvest continues, some smaller growers are finishing up with the larger ones still harvesting for a few more weeks. It is still an interesting process for producers to get bins out of fields to loading areas due to wet conditions. Overall, the producers are busy harvesting the crops they can get to because they do not know what to expect next with weather conditions. Some long hours were put in again this week before the rains/snow came.

BUCKS COUNTY, Mike Fournier

Heavy snow in October...just when you think you've seen it all, weather-wise, in one year! We had a hard frost on Monday, 10/31, 26 degrees in Bucks County. Combines will be on the sidelines for a couple of days until the snow melts off. Many good intentions of getting wheat planted in a timely fashion have gone out the window due to the weather.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Another cool and wet week topped off with 10-12 inches of snow. The heavy snow did not help the soybeans and corn still standing in the fields.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Wet conditions limited field work, received an additional 1/2 inch of rainfall. Some corn and soybeans were harvested.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Fall planted wheat is off to a pretty good start. A few farmers are still planting fall wheat. Many acres of shelled corn was harvested this week. Yields between 90 to 180 bushels per acre. Soybeans are coming off around 30 to 65 bushels per acre. The snow on Saturday will slow things up in the fields. Last week some fall tillage crops were being planted.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O. Yocum

Received 6" of snow; which caused some lodging of soybeans. Poor harvest conditions for soybeans this past week and snow will stop soybean harvest until it melts.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Most of the week was too wet to get into the fields, which set back harvesting. Pastures are still holding up but muddy conditions are becoming evident where cattle congregate.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

So far we have seen an extremely wet spring, a mid season drought, record rainfalls in September, and now 6 inches of snow - what is next! Late week rain and snow is significantly slowing up harvest. Many acres of beans and corn are still waiting for right soil conditions for harvest while crop quality decreases and stands go down. Snow is especially hard on beans. Late season beans with leaves remaining knocked down flat in many areas.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Snow!! Six inches has slowed the apple harvest and field work this week. The cold weather ended any hay making for the year. Harvested corn and soybeans earlier in the week. Soybean yields are near normal while the corn varies but mostly less than normal. Problem now is getting in the field.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Some soybeans and corn were able to be harvested. Although there was minimal precipitation, the cloudy days did not help the dry down process of the crops. Attempts were made to mow and harvest alfalfa, then approximately 6 inches of heavy, wet snow fell on Saturday - another weather related setback.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

No soybeans have been harvested this week due to the off and on rainy weather. Saturday morning brought many bursts of snow with none sticking to the ground. Every day the combines were harvesting corn - moistures of 18-21%. Most growers are reporting good yields for corn. Several beef cattle producers in the neighborhood have separated their cows and calves-selling the feeder calves and the balling cows made for some sleepless nights. Reports are many wheat growers have been prevented from planting wheat due to excessive moisture.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Snow and rain were the culprits that kept the field activities to a minimum for the week. Activities were silo filling, sowing winter grains and harvesting corn and soybeans.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Corn is still being chopped for silage. Between the mud and the snow, it is going to be a challenge to get enough feed for the winter.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Cool, wet conditions all week. First killing frost of the season---very late this year. Most fields too wet to get into.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 30, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	44	63	70
Corn, mature	96	97	96
Corn, harvested	39	69	58
Barley, planted	86	98	95
Barley, emerged	58	88	81
Wheat, planted	68	84	83
Wheat, emerged	46	66	63
Soybeans, harvested	33	70	56
Potatoes, harvested	92	99	98
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	85	97	94
Apples, harvested	95	96	95

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 30, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	21	46	32
Soybeans	1	7	24	48	20
Pasture	5	14	36	36	9

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
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